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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Central Intelligence

FROM : Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

SUBJECT: Soviet Air Strength in the Port Arthur Naval Base Area

DATE: 12 March 1948

IM-14

1. Attached hereto is a detailed appreciation of the Soviet Air Order of Battle in the Port Arthur Naval Base area. Recent sightings of Soviet aircraft in this area are in general accord with our estimates of Soviet air strength in this locality.

Theodore Babbitt
THEODORE BABBITT

Enclosure

cc: (1) Director's File
(1) Central Records
(2) Asst. Director, ORE

Document No. NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIEDClass. CHANGED TO: TS S c

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 13/10/77

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SOVIET AIR ORDER OF BATTLE IN PORT ARTHUR NAVAL BASE AREA

Recent reported visual citings [] indicate that the USSR, in early March, had approximately 200 twin engine attack planes and additional single engine fighters at two airfields in the Dairen - Port Arthur area.

This report is not at variance with the current estimate of Soviet air order of battle in the Port Arthur Naval Base.

It is estimated that the USSR has a total of approximately 450 aircraft in this area. This estimate is based on very fragmentary reports, and the total figure may vary as much as 200 more or less on any given date.

A breakdown of the estimated strength of 450 aircraft is as follows:

Four fighter regiments consisting of 150 aircraft.

Three ground attack regiments composed of 100 aircraft.

Five bomber regiments with a cumulative total of 150 aircraft.

Fifty others.

All these units, except for a possible Naval Air Force division, are believed to be subordinate to the 9th Air Army, with headquarters in the Maritime Military District.

Soviet bombardment aircraft in the Port Arthur Naval Base area are believed to consist primarily of twin-engine TU - 2 type planes. This type is sufficiently similar to US A-20 type aircraft to explain the report of the [] [] that he saw "125 twin engine attack planes similar to A-26". However, it is possible that the USSR may in fact have some A-20 type aircraft in the Port Arthur Naval Base area.

Soviet fighters based at fields near Dairen and Port Arthur are believed to be YAK-9, LA-5 and LA-7.

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The citings reported by the appear to cover airfields identified as Tuchengtzu, north of Port Arthur, and Choushuitzu, near Dairen. In addition to these fields, there is believed to be a third large airfield, Sanshihlipao, in the northern part of the Naval Base area, as well as several smaller fields, which were not covered in the report.

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